

What is Claimed:

1. A method of accelerating catalyst aging comprising the step of exposing a catalyst material to a continuous flow of a gaseous composition, the gaseous composition comprising a substance which deactivates the catalyst material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of base metals and oxides thereof; alkaline earth-based adsorbents; platinum metal group catalysts and oxides thereof; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the catalyst material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of manganese, cobalt, iron and nickel, and oxides thereof; Ca-, Ba- and Sr-based adsorbents; Pt-, Pd- and Rh-based catalysts; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the catalyst material comprises cryptomelane.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises an aerosol.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises particulate matter.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the exposing step lasts at least two weeks.

10. A method of accelerating catalyst aging comprising the step of exposing a catalyst material to a substantially continuous flow of a gaseous composition, the gaseous composition comprising a substance which deactivates the catalyst material.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the catalyst material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of base metals and oxides thereof; alkaline earth-based adsorbents; platinum metal group

catalysts and oxides thereof; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

- 5 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the catalyst material comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of manganese, cobalt, iron and nickel, and oxides thereof; Ca-, Ba- and Sr-based adsorbents; Pt-, Pd- and Rh-based catalysts; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.
- 10 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the catalyst material comprises cryptomelane.
14. The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.
- 15 15. The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises an aerosol.
- 20 16. The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises particulate matter.
17. The method of claim 13 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.
- 25 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the exposing step lasts at least two weeks.